

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly of Guiting Power held on
Wednesday 14th March 2018 at 7.30pm
in Guiting Power Village Hall**

Chairman: Cllr Dawn Rimmer

Seventeen parishioners present

- 1. Call to order.** The meeting was called to order and opened at 7.30pm
- 2. Apologies.** Apologies were received from Nettie Ekblom, Janet Boote, Rev Scott, Nick Powell and County Councillor Nigel Moor.
- 3. Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 15th March 2017 at 7.30pm in Guiting Power Village Hall to be signed and approved.** These were approved and signed as a true record.

4. Brief Reports

Gloucestershire County Council – Cllr Nigel Moor (Read by Dawn Rimmer)

GCC BUDGET

GCC`s budget for 2018/19 was agreed at Council on the 14th February and is a total of £412.9 m based on a council tax increase of 4.49%, of which 2.0 % is ringfenced for adult care. This represents an increase in our expenditure of 1.27% compared with the 2017/18 budget and means that the county council can protect the budgets for adult care, children and families, public health, communities and infrastructure. The budget represents an increase in spending on adult social care of 2.3% and on children`s services of 28%. The aim here is to reduce the case load for each social worker.

In addition, our capital budget going forward to 2019 is almost £505 m and includes our £150m investment to highways, and in addition to broadband, cycling and footways and other essential infrastructure including a roll out of electric vehicle charging points across the county. Compared with many other counties we have been able to maintain our services despite reduced grant from central government and this has only been possible because of difficult decisions taken during the period of our administration.

The Lengthsman`s scheme and Highways Local will continue as well as local community budgets for councillors. This will enable each councillor to spend £30,000 over three years on community projects.

The Lengthsman`s scheme will start again in May and I will book some time for you and let the clerk know the programme details.

LED Street Lighting

To date the replacement project has concentrated on the conversion of street lights in residential areas, and Skanska are just about to complete year 3 of the 4 year programme.

At the end of March 40,000 lights will have been replaced- 74% of the total asset of 54,000 lights. Over the period 1st April -2018 – March 2019 the remaining lights will be replaced including the more difficult wall mounted and those on wood poles. There are substantial energy savings from the replacement project, and the LED columns may offer the possibility of recharging points for electric vehicles.

The A417 Missing Link invitation to public consultation

Thanks to our lobbying and a £4m investment in feasibility work, Highways England are organising a public consultation on the possible route options between 15th February and 29th March 2018. Details will be available in Cirencester Library or online at www.highways.org.uk/a417-missing-link This is an opportunity to have your say on this crucial project, which is also important for the North Cotswolds, as I believe with a fast route between the M4 and M5, there will be an opportunity to divert HGV`s presently using the A429 Fosse Way.

A new Way for Highways

As part of our £150 m investment in the county`s roads over the next five years Gloucestershire County Council announced proposals to break down the county`s highways contract into three areas. These are highways maintenance contract, highways structural maintenance contract (resurfacing work) and the highways professional services contract (works design and consultancy support). The new highways term maintenance contract will deliver around £20 m of routine maintenance on our roads each year and covers works such as pothole repairs, patching, winter gritting, grass cutting and gulley emptying. The five companies that have been shortlisted are Balfour Beatty, Griffiths, Ringway, Skanska and Volker Highways. Each prospective contractor will go through a rigorous tendering process over the coming months before an award of the contract in the Autumn 2018. The council`s current highways provider Amey will continue to deliver highway services in the county until their contract ends at the end of March 2018. Tarmac have been announced as the winning contractor for the new highways structural contract and later in the spring we will announce our road resurfacing programme for the coming year.

Major Roads Network

You will recall that I have mentioned that Highways England were consulting on the National Strategic Roads Network and the A429 Fosse was not included. Now Highways England are consulting on what would be a second national tier : The Major Roads Network and again the A429 is not included and on this basis would be described as a Local Highway. The down side is that any road improvements along the A429 would need to come from the county council and or s106 contributions but the upside is that the Major Roads Network will require new signage. This change will provide the opportunity to direct HGV`s away from the Fosse as map companies/satnav companies are made aware of the new designation and the need to encourage traffic onto the major roads as opposed to local highways.

Safe and Well visits

I wanted to mention these visits conducted by the Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service with vulnerable groups in the county. Nearly 6000 visits a year are now carried out and I wanted to flag up that if there are groups in your town or village that would benefit for a visit, please let the Moreton or Stow Fire stations know.

Local Highways

Bob Skillern has been promoted to the role of Area Highways Manager for the central part of the county and Rhodri Grey (E mail address Rhodri.GREY@gloucestershire.gov.uk) is our new Local Highways Manager. I have met with Bob and Rhodri to review my local highways

budget but the recent bad weather has pushed back many of the repairs and schemes in the current programme. What I can say is that these are included in the committed 2017-18 budget and will be done when we are able to catch-up in the spring. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking our highway crews for keeping our strategic highway network open during the recent snow blizzards. There is a hilarious "musical" featuring Gloucestershire's gritting heroes at www.gloucestershirelive.co.uk

You can contact me at nigel.moor@gloucestershire.gov.uk or at 07778 207034

District Councillor – Richard Keeling

No report received

Cheery Club – Janet Boote (Read by Dawn Rimmer)

In 2017 we had 30 Members from the following areas, Chipping Campden, Upper Slaughter, Naunton, Temple Guiting, Guiting Power and one lady from Liverpool who visits the area quite frequently and always enjoys coming to the Club when she can.

Our Speakers were very good and the subjects varied from Wild Birds of Cleeve Common to Garden Lore. A demonstration of Easy Suppers and another of Pottery. A very enjoyable Lunch was had at the Hobnails Pub followed by a Train Ride from Toddington. Afternoon Tea was excellent at Timothy's, also our Christmas Lunch at the Hollow Bottom, Christmas Tea with Carols in the Hall and Pantomime at The Roses, Tewkesbury.

Fund Raising was a Coffee Morning and Soup and Sale. Meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

Upper Windrush Local History Society – Mike Edwards

The year 2017, was again, probably the History Societies, most successful year since it's inception. Numbers averaged in the mid-forties, and on occasions reached the mid-sixties. The visiting speakers covered a diverse number of subjects, starting with Tim Porter on King Henry 3rd , Votes for Women, Defford Airfield project, Knights Templar, Murder of Edward 2nd at Berkley Castle, House History, Pub Signs, The Saxons in Britain, Lifetime in Cheese, Thames Footpath and The Cotswold Sheep.

2018 sees another strong programme of quality speakers, starting on a high with Tim Porter talking about William Marshall, Cherry Hubbard WW1 The Home Front, David Smith on Dr Edwards Jenner, Dan Allen "Soldiers for the Working Day", John Putley "Wytchfinder", Allan Ledger Jane Austen's local connections, John Drinkwater & Kirsty Hartsiotis on Arts & Crafts Movement, Angela Panrucker "Order of the Garter" & Muriel Pilkington The Gunpowder Plot. We also have two special events, in June we have an evening walking tour of The Notgrove Estate led by Mr H Ackland himself. November, we commemorate the Centenary of the cessation of hostilities in WW1, there will be a 2 day event at Guiting Power Village Hall, and we will join the joint Guiting Power/Temple Guiting Remembrance Sunday Service at the War Memorial in Guiting Power.

Again, the committee have agreed to go completely indoors, at the Farmers Arms, Guiting Power, for the winter months, this again has proved to be a popular decision. It was also felt important that we continue to hold talks in the summer months in the surrounding villages of Upper Slaughter, Naunton and Temple Guiting, despite continued pressure to base ourselves completely at The Farmers Arms. With Naunton Village Hall under renovation, the Naunton Meetings will be held in St Andrews Church, Naunton. The committee make important decisions on our behalf, which appear to be successful, mirrored by the continued level of membership and support from the society members.

My thanks to the support received from the Society Officers and Committee. We have about 3 meetings a year, but the continued feedback and interaction from the committee, keeps the flow of ideas rolling. My great thanks to the whole committee for their continued commitment to the Society. Lorna Eayrs from Farmcote has agreed to join the General Committee.

Please may I also pass on my great thanks to our loyal membership, whatever the weather they turn out.

There is a strong programme in place for 2018, a diverse programme, with a guided summer village walk in Notgrove and the very special WW1 Commemorations at Guiting Power to look forward to in November.

Cotswold Friends – Mike Bryant

The North Cotswolds has the oldest population in Gloucestershire, with a third of the population aged over 65. Additionally, the number of people aged over 85 and living alone is expected to rise by over 25% in the next 10 years. Many older people do not drive and public transport may be difficult to use or not available in such a rural area. The North Cotswolds falls within the lowest 10% of areas in England in the National Accessibility Rankings, making it one of the least accessible for shops, GPs, post offices and hospitals etc. Given these factors, loneliness and isolation can become a very real issue for older and vulnerable people in the region.

Cotswold Friends is a local charity providing Community Transport, Befriending, Carer Respite and Community Activities to older and vulnerable people in the North Cotswolds. We aim to combat loneliness and isolation. Our voluntary services improve health and wellbeing and support independent living. We cover Chipping Campden in the north to Bibury in the south and Kingham in the east to the west edge of the Cotswold escarpment. We currently have 7 part-time staff plus almost 300 filled volunteer roles across our services.

Our Community Transport service has over 1,100 registered members and we provide Befriending and Carer Respite services to over 150 clients. This year, we have launched an intergenerational befriending project, which involves sixth-form students from local schools volunteering to visit people in Care Homes. Cotswold Friends Community Activities Programme includes 11 lunch clubs across the region, supporting 450 people each month, Craft and Chat groups, Gentle Walking, Community Singing, Men-in-Sheds and the recently launched Walking Football and Walking Netball.

We want to spread the word about Cotswold Friends. Whilst we are making good progress in this regard, many people are not aware of the charity and the services we offer.

We also urgently need more volunteers as we grow our services. We offer a number of different volunteering roles, all of which are detailed on our website. We are working on our marketing which now includes an updated website, press releases, leaflets, poster campaigns and events and we hope to keep the North Cotswold community up to date with all our news!

Many thanks for taking the time to listen to our update and if you are interested in learning more about us, would like to use our services, or might like to volunteer, please do get in touch.

Guiting Amenity Trust

Adam Price kindly gave a brief overview on the activities of the Trust over the main year. He informed the meeting that the ongoing maintenance and refurbishment at Greenbank House was nearly at an end. He apologised for the inconvenience that had occurred with the project running over and thanked everyone for their patience. Completion of the project was for mid-April with occupancy taking place in early May.

Planning permission had been granted for the conversion of the old garage site into accommodation. A start date for this project was yet to be confirmed

Guiting Village Hall - Chairman Neil Rimmer

The village hall has another had good 12 months, it has required more work (particularly to the flooring) and will need some further maintenance over the next 12 months, the roof has also undergone repairs to stem a small leak. The alterations to the gentlemen's toilet, which simultaneously increases storage and removes the unfortunate instances of people in the old changing room seeing sights they almost certainly did not wish to. We have had quotes in for painting, and work will commence in the near future.

The hall has also recently been fitted with a complete audio-visual solution, complete with high definition projector, permanent screen and sound system (with Bluetooth connectivity) along with high speed broadband. These are available for users at a modest additional fee.

The tracks for the stage curtain need replacing, as it now requires a significant workout to open them, a fund raiser in the form of a bingo night is being run on March 24 th. I encourage you all along!

Team Village Hall consists of a team of 12 villagers who work towards the goal of keeping the hall open and in good shape. The hall receives no external funding and is entirely reliant on events to support itself. A point to note is that it takes approximately £6,000 per annum to keep the hall open for 12 months, which without the support of the committee and all the users would not be possible.

The regular users of the Hall are a wide and varied group, from Yoga, the Brownies, use as a polling station, the Parish Council, Art Classes, Jumble sales, Cyclists and walkers, the cheery club, kick boxing, and other keep fit activities, weddings, parties and social events.

The largest customer by far is the Guiting Power Social Group, from primarily the Fete and the Pantomime, our second largest single event customer is the Guiting Festival who have the hall for 14 days each July.

The hall by using the work of volunteers largely, is predicted to make a small profit to put into reserves for the third year running. There has been a noticeable increase in the village hall as a venue from both within and out with the Parish, this wider base has allowed us to leave the charging rates unchanged for the last 5 years' whilst increasing the resilience and maintenance of the hall.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank the members of "Team Village Hall" who continue to do an amazing job keeping the hall alive.

Guiting Power Social Group – Neil Rimmer

I think it worth prefacing this report with a description of what and who the Guiting Power Social Group is and is not! Firstly, it NOT a committee, absolutely anyone from the village that wishes to come along and contribute with ideas and time and effort is more than

welcome. As we put events on, different people take a lead, and other participate in an entirely voluntary and inclusive way.

The original purpose was to raise enough money to build the very successful children's playground in the village. Today's objective for the group is to provide various events throughout the year to bring community spirit and entertainment to the village. The funds raised either go back into subsidising other events, or go towards the upkeep of the village hall, and other local good causes. Thought is being given at the moment to extending the existing play area.

A brief summary of the main events of last year follows, but there were of course the usual run of quizzes and bingo nights in addition over the year.

June at the first of the Social Groups signature events, the village fete. In 2016, and again in 2017 year we were lucky enough to secure the services of the RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight who did a low-level fly over with a Hurricane much to the delight of the nearly 800 people who attended. The stall holders had a great day, the fun dog show, as always, was extremely popular as were the traditional games and the pig roast!

New to the agenda for this year was the sell-out Ban Dance, attended by well over 130 people, who laughed, danced and drank the night away. This was such a success it is already booked for later this year.

The third big event of the year, the village bonfire night. This year once again funded fully by the social group, (with thanks to the Parish Council for organising the insurances!). A fantastic night helped the crowd of nearly 400 to watch a great display and share a drink, food and fellowship in the village hall.

The final signature event of the last 12 months was the village Pantomime (Oh, yes it was!), this is an enormous amount of effort by all concerned, from organising lighting and sound, to making all the props, working on the script, all the back of stage help and of course the cast. It's a huge team effort by nearly 30 people!

This year was Cinderella, the first show is a cut down version for the free Children's party in December, attended by over 40 children and their parents. In addition to the Panto the kids have great fun with games, the actual Father Christmas attends and they get fed too!

Then the hard work for cast and crew began. This year the 3 main performances were all sold out (again) the Panto in all being seen by over 450 people, Oh, yes it was!

Planning for the next 12 months is well underway kicking off with a Bingo Night on Saturday the 24th of this month. The fete will as usual be in June, and no doubt the Panto will be back due to popular demand. Look out on "Guitingevents.co.uk" or the "Guiting Power village hall" and "what's on in Guiting" Facebook sites.

We all would like to thank this wonderful village yet again for its great support, please keep coming along! If you want to get involved talk to me or any of the others in the Social Group, you will be assured of a most warm welcome.

Guiting Power Playgroup – Becky Roseblade

Another great year at the school, 9 of our children went on to local primary schools last September and we have gained 7 new younger ones to join our other children. We now have a limited number of free spaces, so please let all you friends and relatives know before it's too late to get their young ones in to this fantastic setting.

From September the government started a new scheme where up to 30 hours of free time are given, we have joined this scheme in full.

We have started our new outdoor learning and adventure sessions which are extremely popular with villagers and children alike. The school is working hard to integrate with the local community, for example we have Kimberly Edwards now coming in as a volunteer, Dorothy Swallow who is our Mrs Christmas, we also visit the church often for the various annual festivals.

We have been fund raising for some years for an outdoor shelter for the children, this is seen as a necessity not just by us but is a strong recommendation from OFSTED. I am pleased to report we are very close to starting the build, although we will have to continue fund raising to get to completion.

We are also about to implement a new software system to run the school's finances this will bring us into compliance with the new General Regulations for Data Protection and improve our efficiency.

We made a couple of very successful school trips to Cattle Country and a Toddington steam train trip.

I would like to take this chance to thank my wonderful staff and volunteers for without them none of this possible.

St Michaels & All Angels Church – Mike Edwards

As a Church community, we love being involved in village life and being a part of this amazing community. Looking back over this last year, we continue to try to express God's love for us all in our worship, our community activities, our events and our day to day lives. Some highlights include:

- Our church is very ably served by our Churchwardens Mike Edwards and David Broad, with the wisdom of Dorothy Watson behind them. We owe them, and the strong team of volunteers behind them a debt of gratitude.
- Our regular services continue to be diverse in style and well supported. Visitors and new regulars are always warmly welcomed.
- We try to reflect God's presence with us through our journeys in life and our joyful baptisms, love filled weddings and reflective funerals are an important part of this. We love to serve our community in these services. It was good to be able to host a Roman Catholic Funeral in St. Michael's this autumn for a long term village resident.
- It was great to partner with the Farm last May for a Rogation Celebration, and to use the Barn there for a service at the end of a long prayer walk across the Benefice.
- Temple Guiting School has had a good year, and we have welcomed a new Headteacher. This January saw a visit from OFSTED and a very Good report. The school came to church in December and led a fabulous Carol Service.
- Our Weston coach trip was well enjoyed in the summer; the Open Gardens was again a wonderful team effort; and we have liked being a part of wider village events and caring for our neighbours too.

Our Church Annual Meeting is taking place on Thursday 26th April at 7.30pm. Please do come along to find out more and to join in. We'd love to hear your ideas too of things that we could be doing to serve our community and work together – do let us know!

Guiting Watch – Nettie Ekblom (read by Dawn Rimmer)

There were no issues to report for the village. The current reporting system from the police was now covering a much wider area so only relevant updates were going to be sent through. Everyone at the meeting who was interested in receiving updates should sign-up to the scheme via the subscription page on the gutting events website - www.guttingevents.co.uk

Guiting Manor Farms

No reports received

Parishioners took this opportunity to thank the Farm for all their hard work with ensuring that the village stayed open during the recent bad weather.

Update on the toilet facilities project at the Church – Roland Greenhill

We have enjoyed the continuing support from the community and have received generous donations including building stone and flooring. In June 2017 we obtained planning consent from the CDC and have subsequently been working with them to obtain Buildings Regulations Approval. This was given last week with the following conditions attached:

that we receive satisfactory reports from structural engineers for soak away drainage & pyramidal roof load bearings.

Once established, we can then assess costings, go out to tender and begin to approach grant giving bodies & trusts for the final finance. We do not intend to commence construction until we are able to cover the total building cost.

We have covered the expenses incurred to date from funds already raised.

Our next local funding bid will take place at Guiting Grange on June 10th. Mr & Mrs Dawson have generously offered to open their garden between 2.00pm and 6.00pm. Help to run the event and produce the memorable teas will be very welcome.

Constable's Piece Trust – Cllr Dawn Rimmer

The Constable's Piece Trust is a fund established in the Parish many years ago to distribute its income for any charitable purpose for the inhabitants of the area of the ancient Parish of Guiting Power.

The Parish Council, as the Trustee of the Trust, welcomes any application for funding from eligible individuals or organisations. One application has been received for consideration within the time frame for 2017/18. We would be pleased if those present could read the eligibility criteria & promote the fund in the local area.

The Trustees were pleased to announce that the Cheery Club had recently been awarded a grant in this financial year.

The eligibility criteria & application form are available on the guttingevents website under the Parish Council page. There are copies available here today.

5. Annual Report from the Chairman of Guiting Power Parish Council – Dawn Rimmer

I am pleased to announce that Guiting Power Parish Council has been awarded the Foundation Level of the Local Council Award Scheme which shows we are always trying to improve and serve the community better. As a local council we want to serve our local community and make a real difference to the lives of the people that live here. This scheme offers us the opportunity to show that we meet the standards set by the sector, assessed by our peers, and to put in place the conditions for continued improvement. Thanks go to our Clerk, Kate Sales, for all her hard work on the particular project.

We recently produced our budget for the financial year 2018/19. After detailed discussion, it was decided that this Parish will raise the precept by 4% to maintain parish finances in line with current financial requirements. This equates to approximately £1 per household per year.

We continue to work closely with the Highways department to ensure roads & footpaths are maintained to the highest level. Please feel free to report any items you would like investigated to one of the councillors or our footpath warden, Geoff Cuthbert. Thanks go to Geoff for his continued advice and guidance to help maintain access to our beautiful Cotswold environment. We hope that he might be prepared to continue to carry out this role in the coming year.

Cllr Ogden has continued to maintain a comprehensive WELCOME PACK for newcomers to the village which is available online at the www.guitingevents.co.uk website along with lots of other interesting information for the village.

Congratulations to the social group on all their hard work in providing entertainment in the village! The social group & parish council worked closely together on a number of events including The Village Fete & Dog Show which raised over £3800 for local good causes and on the bonfire party which was well supported once again! This year's fete will be on Saturday 16th June & the bonfire will be held on Monday 5th November. Many thanks go to everyone who volunteered at these village events.

I would like to thank our Clerk, Kate Sales, for all the help and guidance she has given us as we continue to adapt to new legal requirements & thank you to my fellow councillors for their support and hard work.

The Council would also like to thank Simon Gardener and the farm for all their hard work in keeping the village open through the recent bad weather, everyone in the village appreciated all the effort they went too.

6. Open Floor for Discussion

The Chair took the opportunity to invite anyone who was interested in helping on the parish council to come and chat to the councillors to find out what was involved. New recruits to the council would always be warmly welcomed.

No other questions were raised. The Chair thanked everyone for coming and the meeting was closed at 8.10pm.